

WNG states that a copy of its filing was served on all participants listed on the service list maintained by the Commission in the docket referenced above.

Any person desiring to protest this filing should file a protest with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street, NE., Washington, DC 20426, in accordance with Section 385.211 of the Commission's Rules and Regulations. All such protests must be filed as provided in Section 154.210 of the Commission's Regulations. Protests will be considered by the Commission in determining the appropriate action to be taken, but will not serve to make protestants parties to the proceedings. Copies of this filing are on file with the Commission and are available for public inspection in the Public Reference Room.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-177-000]

Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company; Notice of Request Under Blanket Authorization

January 15, 1998.

Take notice that on January 9, 1998, Williston Basin Interstate Pipeline Company (Williston Basin), 200 North Third Street, Suite 300, Bismarck, North Dakota 58501, filed a request with the Commission in Docket No. CP98-177-000, pursuant to Sections 157.205 and 157.211 of the Commission's Regulations under the Natural Gas Act (NGA) for authorization to utilize existing taps for transportation of natural gas deliveries to Montana-Dakota Utilities Co. (Montana-Dakota) authorized in blanket certificate issued in Docket No. CP82-487-000, *et al.*, all as more fully set forth in the request on file with the Commission and open to public inspection.

Williston Basin proposes to transport natural gas to Montana-Dakota at three existing transmission line taps, for ultimate use by additional end-use customers. The taps are located in Dawson County and Richland County, Montana, and Pennington County, South Dakota.

Any person or the Commission's staff may, within 45 days after the Commission has issued this notice, file pursuant to Rule 214 of the

Commission's Procedural Rules (18 CFR 385.214) a motion to intervene or notice of intervention and pursuant to Section 157.205 of the Regulations under the NGA (18 CFR 157.205) a protest to the request. If no protest is filed within the allowed time, the proposed activity shall be deemed to be authorized effective the day after the time allowed for filing a protest. If a protest is filed and not withdrawn within 30 days after the time allowed for filing a protest, the instant request shall be treated as an application for authorization pursuant to Section 7 of the NGA.

Linwood A. Watson, Jr.,

Acting Secretary.

[FR Doc. 98-1452 Filed 1-21-98; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

[Docket No. CP98-167-000]

PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation; Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Assessment for the Proposed PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation's 1998 Expansion Project and Request for Comments on Environmental Issues and Notice of Site Visit

January 15, 1998.

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) will prepare an environmental assessment (EA) that will discuss the environmental impacts of the construction, installation and operation of three new compressor units at three of its existing compressor stations proposed in the PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation's 1998 Expansion Project.¹ This EA will be used by the Commission in its decision-making process to determine whether the project is in the public convenience and necessity.

Summary of the Proposed Project

PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation (PG&E), formerly Pacific Gas Transmission Company, proposes to expand the capacity of its facilities in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. PG&E states that the proposed compression upgrades would allow PG&E to transport between Kingsgate, British Columbia and Stanfield, Oregon up to

¹ PG&E Gas Transmission, Northwest Corporation's application was filed with the Commission under Section 7 of the Natural Gas Act and Part 157 of the Commission's regulations.

an additional 56,000 dekatherms per day on an annual basis. PG&E seeks to increase the total horsepower (hp) at three of its existing compressor stations:

- 3,100 hp increase at Station 4, located at milepost (MP) 46.7 on PG&E's existing mainline pipeline in Bonner County, Idaho; specifically, by exchanging an existing 13,000 hp unit with a new 15,000 hp unit and exchanging an existing 13,000 hp unit with a low-hour 14,100 hp refurbished unit;
- 4,700 hp increase at Station 7, located at MP 212.6 on PG&E's existing mainline pipeline in Walla Walla County, Washington; specifically, by upgrading its existing 35,000 hp unit to 39,700 hp through equipment modifications and control setpoint changes; and
- 1,500 hp increase at Station 9, located at MP 319.5 on PG&E's existing mainline pipeline in Morrow County, Oregon; specifically, by exchanging an existing 12,600 hp unit with a new 14,100 hp unit. PG&E would install a new, higher capacity oil cooler to be located immediately outside the compressor building and would adjust the temperature control setpoint to the turbine unit.

The general location map and plot plans for each of the proposed compressor station upgrades are shown in Appendix 1. If you are interested in obtaining procedural information, please write to the Secretary of the Commission.

Land Requirements for Construction

All construction activities would take place within the existing fencelines of all three compressor stations. No new land disturbance outside existing compressor station fencelines would be required.

The EA Process

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the Commission to take into account the environmental impacts that could result from an action whenever it considers the issuance of a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity. NEPA also requires us to discover and address concerns the public may have about proposals. We call this "scoping". The main goal of the scoping process is to focus the analysis in the EA on the important environmental issues. By this Notice of Intent, the Commission requests public comments on the scope of the issues it will address in the EA. All comments received are considered during the preparation of the EA. State and local government representatives are encouraged to notify their constituents